

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 180973
ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: PM/DCA:MARIETTI

APPROVED BY: PM/DCA:VBAKER

-----053117 030038Z /63

R 021939Z AUG 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USNMR SHAPE BE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 2297 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON,
MOSCOW, GENEVA 19 JUL 77

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USUN 2297

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, UNGA, XO

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO INDIAN OCEAN AD HOC COMMITTEE

REFS: A) STATE 166216; B) MOSCOW 10295; C) STATE 148778

1. AMB LEONARD MET JULY 19 WITH INDIAN OCEAN AD HOC COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN AMERASHINHE TO DELIVER LETTER CONTAINING US
RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE'S APRIL 14 INVITATION. FULL TEXT AS
DELIVERED SET OUT PARA 5 BELOW (ALTERED FIRST PARAGRAPH REFLECTS
FACT THAT LETTER IS ADDRESSED TO AMERISINGHE RATHER THAN ACTING
CHAIRMAN JOEWONO, WHO SENT INVITATION).

2. LEONARD EXPLAINED THAT U.S. REPLY, THOUGH NOT
REFLECTING ANY CHANGE OF POSITION ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES,
DID REPRESENT SHIFT IN US ATTITUDE TOWARD COMMITTEE
IN EXPRESSING WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN A PRACTICAL
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PAGE 02 STATE 180973

MANNER. HE ADDED THAT, IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS SPIRIT OF
COOPERATION, U.S. WOULD SHORTLY PROVIDE COMMITTEE
WITH INFORMATION ON RESULTS OF FIRST ROUND OF US-SOVIET
TALKS ON INDIAN OCEAN.

3. AMERASINGHE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH US RESPONSE,
SAYING THAT WHILE IT WAS A SMALL STEP IT WAS NONETHELESS

WELCOME. HE STRESSED SRI LANKA'S LONG-TERM APPROACH TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN, SAYING THERE WOULD BE NO EFFORT TO IMPOSE SOLUTIONS OR INFRINGE ANY RIGHTS WITHOUT THE AGREEMENT OF ALL CONCERNED. HE SAID HE WOULD SEND FORMAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF US REPLY.

4. PRIOR TO MEETING WITH AMERASINGHE, MISOFF PROVIDED COPY OF RESPONSE TO SOVIET MISOFF TULINOV AND EXPLAINED BACKGROUND. TULINOV SAID HE HAD HEARD NOTHING FROM MOSCOW ON THIS SUBJECT AND WAS GRATEFUL FOR EXPLANATION. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH AMB LEONARD, SOV REP OVINNIKOV SIMILARLY EXPRESSED IGNORANCE ABOUT MOSCOW DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING COMMUNICATIONS WITH AD HOC COMMITTEE.

5. FOLLOWING IS FINAL TEXT AS GIVEN TO AMERASINGHE:
QUOTE DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR:

IN A LETTER TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG DATED APRIL 14, 1977, THE ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO THE UNITED STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN CONSULTATIONS LOOKING TOWARD THE CONVENING OF A CONFERENCE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN AND TO COOPERATE IN A PRACTICAL MANNER WITH THE AD HOC COMMITTEE. IN RESPONSE TO THAT INVITATION, I HAVE THE HONOR TO COMMUNICATE THE FOLLOWING TO YOU AND TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 180973

AD HOC COMMITTEE.

THE UNITED STATES FULLY SHARES THE DESIRE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN LITTORAL AND HINTERLAND STATES THAT THE REGION NOT BECOME AN ARENA FOR MILITARY COMPETITION ON THE PART OF OUTSIDE POWERS. PRESIDENT CARTER, AS YOU KNOW, HAS STATED THAT WE ARE WILLING TO JOIN THE SOVIET UNION IN SEEKING WAYS TO ACHIEVE MUTUAL MILITARY RESTRAINT IN THE REGION. WHEN SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE WAS IN MOSCOW IN MARCH, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE UNITED STATES AND USSR JOINTLY EXPLORE THIS ISSUE. OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY INITIATED TALKS ON THIS SUBJECT.

WE ARE THUS READY TO WORK TOWARDS THE GOAL OF PROMOTING PEACE AND SECURITY FOR ALL IN THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION. WE REMAIN UNCONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT AN INDIAN OCEAN CONFERENCE IS THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL. NEVERTHELESS, IN VIEW OF THE INTEREST EXPRESSED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE IN THIS SAME GOAL, THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO EXTEND ITS PRACTICAL COOPERATION TO THE COMMITTEE BY KEEPING IT INFORMED OF IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS THAT MAY HAVE A BEARING ON ITS WORK AND BE OF INTEREST TO ITS

MEMBERS.

AT THE SAME TIME, WE MUST RESPECTFULLY DECLINE TO
PARTICIPATE IN CONSULTATIONS HAVING AS THEIR EXPRESS
PURPOSE THE FORMULATION OF A PROGRAM OF ACTION LEADING
TO THE CONVENING OF A CONFERENCE. WE LOOK FORWARD,
HOWEVER, TO SHARING VIEWS WITH STATES OF THE REGION AND
OTHERS ON HOW BEST TO PROTECT THE PEACE AND SECURITY
OF THE INDIAN OCEAN.

SINCERELY, JAMES F. LEONARD

ACTING UNQUOTE

LEONARD

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PAGE 04 STATE 180973

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, COMMITTEES, OCEANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE180973
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PM/DCA:MARIETTI
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770277-0348
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708105/aaaadlhl.tel
Line Count: 137
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 02ad144f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 166216, 77 MOSCOW 10295, 77 STATE 148778
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1415367
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESPONSE TO INDIAN OCEAN AD HOC COMMITTEE
TAGS: PARM, PORG, XO, US, UNGA, INDIAN OCEAN AD HOC COMMITTEE, (LEONARD, JAMES F)
To: USNMR SHAPE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/02ad144f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009